SHHH: An Evidence-Based Bibliography for Keeping Hospitals Quiet

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The Problem

- The process for improving quality of care started with a campaign to promote staff awareness of patient satisfaction and noise and evolved into the HUSH initiative to improve noise levels on patient units.

- One of the publicly reported questions that impacts CMS reimbursement (Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services) is about hospital quietness.

Purpose

- The purpose of this poster is to share details about collaboration between a hospital librarian, a nursing librarian, and a nursing administrator to impact quality of care at a large public teaching hospital in Iowa.

- The project has involved increasing nursing staff awareness of evidence-based strategies to lower noise levels on selected hospital units.

The Project

- Librarian compiled results from literature search using a subject guide, organized by key themes.

- Evidence-based strategies for noise reduction, such as earplugs, sound conditioners, "Yacker Tracker" stop lights, along with HUSH initiative materials, have been promoted during nursing meeting times. In conjunction with the hospital patient satisfaction coordinator, we presented scores received from Press Ganey surveys documenting noise conditions reported by patients.

Outcomes

- Improved librarian awareness of how to best format and disseminate research summary for nursing leaders and staff.

- Strengthened partnerships between librarians and nursing leaders and staff, with continued opportunities for growth.